

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION TALKING POINTS – SUMMER 2020

- Although the capital construction bill from the 2020 Budget Session was not successful, the Community Colleges remain steadfast in their support for the projects in that bill.
- **Recognizing the current fiscal position of the state presents additional challenges, the Colleges support the Governor’s proposal to move forward the projects that will have no cost to the state at this time and those deemed “crucial”.** Those include the following:
 - WWCC capital renewal project for \$11.740M
 - Authorizations for property acquisitions for CWC and NWCCD
 - Authorizations without funding for NWCCD Gillette College Academic Center Level II and WWCC Nursing Level III planning
- **The Colleges also stress the importance of the other community college projects – there are significant impacts of delaying the process for these projects.**
 - “Cost of delay” – something with which we are all familiar in Wyoming. This is true for potholes, highway maintenance, as well as capital projects.
 - The rigorous 13-point evaluation process of the Wyoming Community College Commission and the prioritization from the State Building Commission address the critical infrastructure failures and needs of the colleges. This is a cost-effective year-over-year process.
 - The colleges are already committed to securing donations and other sources for funding one-half the cost of the construction projects. For the larger projects this means that those communities and donors are already stretched financially.
 - Community College capital construction projects provide a major stimulus to an aching economy.
- The Community Colleges recognize the state has ongoing revenue challenges, but also that there are one-time funds available. **If those funds are not used for capital construction, the Community Colleges would want to use them to minimize/stabilize our operations through the biennium.**

Capital Construction FAQ:

There are currently four projects totaling over \$57.4M awaiting action to be taken so they may proceed. The colleges are responsible for raising one-half that amount and the other half is being requested from the state.

What is the need for these projects? Projects submitted by the colleges undergo a rigorous evaluation and prioritization process both at the commission and at the state. They represent the highest concern for the colleges to ensure a quality education and experience for students.

1. CWC Jackson Outreach Center - To build an outreach facility on land that has been purchased with the help of a special purpose excise tax for \$3.8M.
2. NWC Student Center - To replace a 54-year old building that has become costly to maintain and keep safe for students; to modernize dining options and to expand student activity and recreational opportunities.
3. WWCC Nursing Facility - To expand the nursing program and align with workforce opportunities.
4. LCCC RAC Renovation - To update one of the oldest and most heavily used buildings on campus.

Will these projects increase student enrollment or fill a specific community need?

The projects represent new construction and improvements that will enhance student experience and improve each college’s visible image across the board that will have a positive impact for them. Two of the projects are being built to directly impact enrollment in strategic areas.

Wasn't there an emergency allocation to Western Wyoming Community College recently? Yes. WWCC is a good example of the importance in funding ongoing maintenance expense at the colleges. WWCC was originally funded by the 2017 Legislature with \$200,000 for emergency boiler repairs and fire suppression systems. The project grew with the discovery of bacterial infestation of closed internal piping resulting in an additional \$1,400,000 appropriation in 2018. In 2019, WWCC was provided with an additional \$2,060,000 to complete a study to determine total funding needs, estimated to be a total of \$13,800,000 and \$11,740,000 is included in the current capital construction budget proposal from the governor.

* Source: WCCC 2021-22 Cap Con Biennial Budget Request

2019 Priority Number*	College		Construction Budget	Request
1	CWC - Jackson Outreach Center	Level III design and construction	\$15,154,660	\$7,577,330
2	NWC Student Center	Level III design and construction	\$20,398,342	\$10,199,171
3	WWCC Nursing Facility	Level III design and construction.	\$3,800,000	\$1,900,000
4	LCCC RAC Renovation	Level III design and construction.	\$18,058,800	\$9,029,400
Subtotal			\$57,411,802	\$28,705,901
Infrastructure	WWCC Infrastructure	Mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire suppression	\$11,740,000	\$11,740,000
Level II	NWCCD-GC Academic Center	Level II Schematic Design	\$350,000	\$350,000
Total			\$69,501,802	\$40,795,901
Additional Capital Project Added by JAC	NWCCD-SC Ctr for Advanced Technologies	Level II & III Design and Construction	\$10,000,000	\$5,000,000